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31 July 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

Subject: Procedure for Evaluation of CIG Reports
of Intelligence Information

1. Office of Special Operations non-concurs in the proposed procedure.
2. This non-concurrence is based upon a completely realistic concept of the responsibility of CIG (CIA) in the field of special operations. Because of this particular responsibility, it is the firm conviction of this office that OSO information reports should not pass through ORE for evaluation prior to dissemination to the member agencies.
3. CIG (CIA) has assumed responsibility for performing, for the benefit of the intelligence agencies of the State, War and Navy Departments, a service of common concern -- i.e., the conduct of all espionage and counter-espionage for the collection of foreign intelligence information. The Director, Central Intelligence, has assigned this mission to the Office of Special Operations. Since State, War and Navy Departments have discontinued all activities in the field of espionage and counter-espionage, CIG (CIA), through OSO, has the obligation of delivering as rapidly as possible to the intelligence agency of each department for its own evaluation and to meet its own operating needs, the information product collected through espionage and counter-espionage.
4. The OSO product is information graded by the collector as to source and content and is not evaluated intelligence bearing the stamp of coordination and collation. This product is also delivered to ORE, the principal customer, where it is analyzed in relation to other information and intelligence collected and produced by other departments and agencies. The result of collation by ORE is evaluated, coordinated National Intelligence, a finished product which is disseminated to the agencies concerned.

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5. The responsibilities of collection and coordinated evaluation should not be combined. To do so adversely affects the objective comparison of information previously evaluated by the coordinator with contradictory information subsequently received from another collector. This fact has recently been emphasized in testimony before Congress by those opposing the desirability of CIG (CIA) activities in both the collection and evaluation fields, where the coordinating agency evaluates its own collection product. The distinction between the graded information reports of OSO and the evaluated, coordinated intelligence reports of ORE is very real and should never be obscured.

6. This office also considers that the proposed procedure would result in unnecessary delay in the delivery of reports to all other intelligence users. Every effort is now being made to shorten the time between the date of collection and the day of distribution.

7. In addition to the above, the very complicated procedure proposed is considered most impractical.

8. The proposed CIG (CIA) Administrative Order, Enclosure A, is in conflict with the charter and functions assigned the Office of Special Operations by the Director, Central Intelligence, in memorandum dated 25 October 1946.

9. This office welcomes and appreciates the ORE periodic internal evaluation of OSO reports as to timeliness, value, etc. Such evaluations are of the greatest assistance in improving the quality of information collected by OSO and it is requested that this service be continued. However, such evaluation should not be made prior to distribution of OSO reports to other customers.

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Assistant Director
Special Operations